

## **CIVIC ALLIANCE: PREVENTION THROUGH SERVICE**

November 15-18, 1997, marked the dates of the *Civic Alliance: Prevention Through Service* meeting, which was attended by more than 45 national and international civic and service organizations. The meeting was hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which is leading the Secretary's Initiative on Youth Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), in Washington, D.C. The meeting provided a range of education, training, and networking opportunities addressing various aspects of drug abuse prevention, with a focus on outreach to youth, their parents, and other care givers through parenting and mentoring efforts.

The meeting opened with a media literacy training session for youth from various organizations using a peer-to-peer approach. The meeting also included round table discussions and sessions by leading federal partners on the latest in drug abuse prevention, including the physiology of addiction and the \$195 National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. Featured speakers included representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Corporation for National Service; National Institute on Drug Abuse; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. In addition to addresses from ONDCP Director Barry R. McCaffrey, and ONDCP Deputy Director Hoover Adger, MD, MPH, SAMHSA Administrator Nelba Chavez, Ph.D., Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, and Lily Moore, President of Pilot International, spoke at the event. Training on community and volunteer mobilization was provided, with a focus on parenting and mentoring.

The meeting was marked by an historical achievement. Thirty-three civic and service organizations, representing more than 55 million volunteers, signed the *Prevention Through Service Alliance Resolution Agreement*. The signing, which took place in the Indian Treaty Room, Old Executive Office Building, was witnessed by ONDCP Director Barry R. McCaffrey, Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, and Vice President Al Gore. ONDCP Director Barry R. McCaffrey praised the organizations for their promise to volunteer one million hours among them and emphasized the importance of community groups, "the heart and soul of America," in reaching out to youth and helping to achieve Goal 1 of the *National Drug Control Strategy*, "to educate and enable America's youth to reject illegal drugs as well as alcohol and tobacco," and particularly Objective 5, to "support parents and adult mentors in encouraging youth to engage in positive, healthy lifestyles and modeling behavior to be emulated by young people." Organizations signing the agreement ranged from the Girl Scouts to Rotary International, from The Lions Club to AMVETS, and from 100 Black Men to the National Masonic Foundation for Children.

ONDCP and SAMHSA, as well as the other Federal prevention partners, will continue to provide support in terms of training opportunities, resource and programmatic materials, and other assistance as needed to the alliance as it implements its action plans and recruits new alliance members.